

Attorney Docket No. 2185.004/LSU
(AUC-32815(1))

Serial No. 10/695,429
Response to Office Action of March 7, 2005

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIM

Prior to substantive examination, please amend the claims as follows:

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. (Original) A rotary trimmer comprising:
one or more cutting blades;
a blade carriage for carrying said one or more cutting blades; and
a rail having one or more guide grooves and being operatively connected to a cutting board, said rail having a biasing member in at least one of said one or more guide grooves, wherein said blade carriage is operatively connected to said rail by said one or more guide grooves, and
wherein said biasing member is connected to said blade carriage so that a force on said blade carriage influences the position of said one or more cutting blades with respect to said cutting board.
2. (Original) The rotary trimmer of claim 1, further comprising a blade guard for protecting an operator from direct exposure to said one or more cutting blades.
3. (Original) The rotary trimmer of claim 2, wherein said blade guard has one or more fasteners for connecting said blade guard to said blade carriage.
4. (Original) The rotary trimmer of claim 3, wherein said one or more fasteners detachably connect said blade guard to said blade carriage.
5. (Original) The rotary trimmer of claim 3, wherein said blade guard and said one or more cutting blades are connected so that said blade guard can be used to safely remove and replace said one or more cutting blades with respect to said blade carriage.
6. (Original) The rotary trimmer of claim 5, wherein said cutting board has one or more storage compartments for storing one or more of said integral blade-guard assemblies.

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7. (Original) The rotary trimmer of claim 2, wherein said blade guard and said one or more cutting blades are connected to form an integral blade-guard assembly.

8. (Original) The rotary trimmer of claim 1, wherein said biasing member is an elongated beam with one or more flexible arms connected thereto.

9. (Original) The rotary trimmer of claim 8, wherein said one or more flexible arms are integral to said biasing member.

10. (Original) The rotary trimmer of claim 1, wherein each of said one or more cutting blades has a cutting edge with a predefined cutting profile, a planar side portion with one or more apertures therein, and a transition portion between said profiled cutting edge and said planar side portion, said profiled cutting edge being equally extensive with respect to said planar side portion.

11. (Original) The rotary trimmer of claim 1, wherein said blade carriage is pivotally connected to said rail.

12. (Original) The rotary trimmer of claim 11, wherein said rail is extruded.

13. (Original) The rotary trimmer of claim 1, wherein said blade carriage slides along said rail.

14. (Original) The rotary trimmer of claim 1, wherein said rail is pivotally connected to said cutting board about a single pivot point.

15. (Original) The rotary trimmer of claim 1, wherein said rail is pivotally connected to said cutting board by two aligned pivot points.

16. (Original) The rotary trimmer of claim 1, wherein said cutting board has one or more storage compartments for storing said one or more cutting blades.

17. (Original) The rotary trimmer of claim 1, wherein said cutting board has interchangeable cutting surfaces.

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18. (Original) The rotary trimmer of claim 1, wherein said cutting board is foldable for portability and storage.

19. (Original) A rotary trimmer comprising:
a blade carriage having a handle and an actuator; and
one or more cutting blades,
wherein said handle enables a user to effectively manipulate and/or guide said one or more cutting blades along any of a variety of different cut patterns, and
wherein said actuator selectively positions said one or more cutting blades between an operative position and an inoperative position.

20. (Original) The rotary trimmer of claim 19, wherein said handle is an arcuate pad extending substantially over said blade carriage.

21. (Original) The rotary trimmer of claim 20, wherein said actuator slidably positions said one or more cutting blades along a linear path between an inoperative position and an operative position.

22. (Original) The rotary trimmer of claim 21, wherein said linear path is oblique with respect to a cutting surface when in operative use.

23. (Original) The rotary trimmer of claim 19, wherein said handle is elongated and has a hand gripping portion and a neck connecting said hand gripping portion to said blade carriage.

24. (Original) The rotary trimmer of claim 23, wherein said actuator slidably positions said one or more cutting blades along a linear path between an inoperative position and an operative position.

25. (Original) The rotary trimmer of claim 24, wherein said linear path is oblique with respect to a cutting surface when in operative use.

26. (Original) The rotary trimmer of claim 24, wherein said actuator is a trigger in said neck of said handle.

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27. (Original) The rotary trimmer of claim 24, wherein said actuator selectively interacts with a blade mounting element in said blade carriage to bring about said positioning of said one or more cutting blades.

28. (Original) The rotary trimmer of claim 19, wherein said blade carriage has a connector enabling said blade carriage to be selectively and operatively connected to different tools.

29. (Original) The rotary trimmer of claim 28, wherein said different tools are selected from a group consisting of a rail operatively connected to a cutting board and a hand-held tool with an elongated handle.

30. (Original) A rotary trimmer comprising:

one or more cutting blades;

a blade carriage for carrying said one or more blades, said blade carriage having a connector; and

a rail having one or more guide grooves, said rail being operatively connected to a cutting board,

wherein said connector enables said blade carriage to be selectively and operatively connected to said rail via said one or more guide grooves, and wherein said blade carriage enables a user to effectively manipulate or guide said one or more cutting blades along any of a variety of different cut patterns.

31. (Original) The rotary trimmer of claim 30, wherein said connector has one or more tabs for engagement with said one or more guide grooves.

32. (Original) The rotary trimmer of claim 31, wherein said connector has one or more elements to selectively secure said blade carriage to one or more matching fastening elements of said hand-held tool

33. (Cancelled) A cutting blade for use with a rotary trimmer comprising:
a body having a cutting edge with a predefined cutting profile; and

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a planar side portion of said body with one or more apertures therein, said body also having a transition portion between said predefined cutting edge and said planar side portion,

wherein said profiled cutting edge is equally extensive with respect to said planar side portion of said body.

34. (Cancelled) The cutting blade of claim 33, wherein said cutting edge is symmetrically tapered.

34. (Cancelled) The cutting blade of claim 33, wherein said one or more apertures include a large central aperture and one or more small peripheral apertures about said central aperture.

35. (Cancelled) The cutting blade of claim 33, wherein said one or more apertures are appropriately sized to engage a mounting hub of said rotary trimmer.

37. (New) A rotary trimmer comprising:

one or more cutting blades;

a blade carriage for carrying said one or more cutting blades, wherein said blade carriage has a connector enabling said blade carriage to be selectively and operatively connected to different tools.

38. (New) The rotary trimmer of claim 37, wherein said different tools are selected from a group consisting of a rail operatively connected to a cutting board and a hand-held tool with an elongated handle.